CONSIDERATIONS

Requiring greater

Care for Trade

IN

ENGLAND,

AND SOME

Expedients Propoſed.

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CONSIDERATIONS requiring greater Care for TRADE *in* ENGLAND, *and ſome Expedients Propoſed.*

'TIS very well known, that ſince the Diſcovery of the Eaſt and Weſt *Indies*, and increaſe of Navigation thereon, the ſtate of *Europe* in general, and every Nation in it in particular, is much altered, more eſpecially in the courſe of War; for whereas before it was ſupplied by Souldiers, either voluntary or bound thereto by Tenure of Lands, who found their own Arms and Cloaths, and for a certain time Proviſions; ſo that War was but of little Expence to the State, and often decided by a Field-Battle (as that between *Algiers* and *Tunis* laſt Year) whereupon the Men went every one home again to his own Houſe; now we ſee all corners of *Europe* crouded with liſted, diſciplined, and ſtanding Armies in Pay, which as it cannot be done without huge Funds of Money, and the Ancient Demeſnes of Princes not ſufficing, Taxes are every where increaſed on the Subject; to the end the Fountains of which may be kept open, as 'tis reciprocally needful the State ſhould by all means conſult increaſe of Wealth to the People, (no other ways ſupplied ſo well as by Home Manufacture and Foreign Trade) accordingly a change of the Management of War in *Europe* is not more obvious, than the Methods uſed to furniſh neceſſary deniers for it in the Subject: Therefore in this

Age, not only Republicks, but even the moſt Abſolute Monarchies, do ſedulouſly court Improvement of their Wealth by Trade, witneſs *France* and *Sweden*, *Florence*, nay, the Popedom; nor are we ſo to dread the Monſter Arbitrary Power, as to conceive the ſame Conſiderations that lead every Man to proportion Burdens to the ſtrength of his Animal, and yield a Paſture to the Milch Kine, will not alſo cheriſh ſo much Mercy and Goodneſs in the worſt Princes, as not to extort more from their Subjects than they have any Means or Ability to raiſe.

Nothing is more demonſtrative than (*point d'Argent*, *point de Suiſſe*) no Money, no Souldiers; and no greater obſtruction to the Succeſs of Arms than want of Pay, beſides the increaſing uſe of Fortifications, Artillery, and Fire-Engines is coſtly; wherefore that State which has moſt Money, may have moſt Men, and will be moſt like to have her Enterprizes ſucceed: Whoever thinks the Valour of a few may counter-balance the Numbers of an Enemy, or that an unexperienced Army can ſtand againſt a Veterane, will run mighty hazard of being deceived; and tho' the *Engliſh* Ancient Victories in *France* were ſufficient to breed in us a concluſion of the former, yet now a change of the Diſcipline of Arms puts Men under a nearer equality, ſo that whoever conſiders the courſe of our late and preſent Wars, may obſerve the Agreſſor moſtly to exceed in Number; beſides War now adays is not determined by Point of Honour, and Dint of Sword, ſo much as by manifold Intrigues, wherein Gold has obtained the Reputation of a Vertue Superlative.

As an Alteration of the ſtate of War in *Europe* requires unuſual Supplies of Money from the Subject, 'tis as certain that the ſupport of Eſtates in Peace does now alſo call for Supplies much enhanc'd of thoſe in former Ages, for

for Demeſnes, the Ancient ſupport of Crowns, are generally embezelled, the Nature and Form of Courts, the Courſe of Alliances, Intrigues, and Negotiations are altered, Officers of all ſorts multiplied, Frauds complicate and inveterate, beſides the accurrence of ſtanding Troops. Wherefore I conclude ſome extraordinary care is to be taken, that increaſe of Wealth in the Subjects may enable them to bear ſuch new Burdens; for if maintenance of the State require increaſe of Revenue when the Subject's Purſe is exhauſted, as in the preſent caſe of *Denmark*, it muſt needs make both King and People uneaſie; and whatever Country this happens in, will be expoſed to danger of becoming a Prey to ſome other.

To draw down a Conſideration of the Premiſes to a nearer relation with *England*, I take for granted Money is now more than ever the Nerve of War, and Trade the great Miniſter of Wealth; and if every Nation in *Europe* be Armed at all Points, that a Poſture of Defence, even in Peace, is neceſſary to be maintain'd by us; 'tis a greater Bleſſing than the unthankful People of *England* eſteem it, to have the Ocean for our Circumvallation and Barrier, which Fences us againſt Surprize and Ravages, excuſes the Charge and Terror of Garriſons and Fortifications, and continues to us that Quiet, Liberty, and Security of former Ages, all the reſt of Chriſtendom, more or leſs, have loſt; nevertheleſs an Iſland muſt have a Line alſo of moving Caſtles, Marine Force is ſo increas'd, and all Maritim Nations provided for Invaſion, that we ought to conclude our ſelves no longer ſafe than our Naval Strength is ſuperiour, or at leaſt equal to that of our Neighbours.

To ſpeak of Power at Sea, and the Advantages it gives Poſſeſſors of it, is a very large Theme, and we need not go back to *Tyre*, *Athens*, *Carthage*, *Venice*, and the Barbarous *Normans* or *Danes* to enquire into her Wonders,

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our late and more experienc'd Ages yield as fruitful Inſtances: Trade and Power at Sea are productive one of another, the former indeed ſeems Naturally entituled to Parental Honour, though ſhe can no more flouriſh without Protection of Authority, than the Royal Navy without her, ſo that a Diſcourſe of them may run as of one Intereſt. In the Invaſions of the *Romans*, *Saxons*, *Danes*, and *Normans*, this Iſle was unequal to them in Ships at thoſe Junctures, though at ſeveral other times it was, and ever ſince the laſt has been upon the Offenſive, and ſo exempted from the Broils of *Europe*, more at leiſure to become Umpire and Ballance of it; even ſince increaſe of Navigation we have (bleſſed be God) been ſo happy as to maintain a Force at Sea, which has given Terror to other Nations rather than Encouragement to Invade us; but ſhould it ever arrive (which God forbid) to have the Tables turned upon us, the ill Effects would be ſo much greater as our Security from ſuch Attempts has hitherto been, our Coaſts being eaſie of Acceſs, and not ſo planted with Forts as thoſe long accuſtom'd to Defence; and the Union of *Scotland* and *Ireland*, which wholly rely on us, does not diminiſh but increaſe our neceſſity of Strength at Sea.

Before Diſcovery of the *Eaſt* and *Weſt-Indies*, there was little Traffick in the Ocean, the *Hans-Towns* and *Flemings* had what was; but when *Spain* had of a ſudden by the Spoils of *America*, ſo over-topt the reſt of *Europe*, as to make ſome fair offers for the Univerſal Monarchy of it, other Nations became enquirers after thoſe Mines, and among them all, none made more Succeſsful Advances to a Participation with her than *England*; the Hiſtory of Queen *Elizabeth*, and our large Plantations give Evidence of it, and under that Illuſtrious Queen our Navigation reach'd the *Weſt-Indies* and *Muſcovy*; the Traffick of the *Hans-Towns* was here extin-

extinguiſht, and our *Eaſt-India*, *Turkey* (if not *African*) Companies had their Foundations. How Navigation ſince has improved with us, the whole World can Witneſs, and that we may continue to equal, or exceed every Nation on Earth, is, if God permit, not improbable, our Situation, Harbours, Productions, Manufactures, Genius, Timber, and Nautick Skill affording all Encouragements to hope it.

Every Country in meaſuring its own Strength, muſt take in a Computation of her Neighbour's to make a right Eſtimate thereof, and 'tis this Conſideration alone which can give Jealouſie to our Honour and Welfare: The Neighbour-Nations which can only affect us, either to Eclipſe our Glory, diſturb our Quiet, or endanger our Safety, are *France*, *Spain*, *Holland*, *Denmark*, and *Sweden*; *Spain*, *Denmark*, and *Sweden* are as yet unable to Enterprize on us, ſo that *Holland* and *France* only fall under a watchful Conſideration.

Holland (whoſe Seven Provinces are little more in extent than *Yorkſhire*) is well known to have received the Birth of her Common-wealth ſince increaſe of Navigation, and is formed entirely to Encouragement of it; what Wealth, Strength, and Conſideration in *Europe* ſhe has obtained by that means, needs no Proof: Moreover the long Wars, wherein ſhe firſt liſt up her Head, and ſcarce intermitted, with which ſhe has been ſince exerciſed, have trained her to Modern Diſcipline of Arms, and enured her Subjects to ſuch Taxes, that about 30000 Souldiers, and between 30 and 40 Men of War are maintained by her in time of Peace, and more than doubled in War without difficulty; Powerful Fleets, and ſtanding Armies, and eſtabliſhed Funds for them, are things which ought to give Jealouſie; nevertheleſs increaſe of Wealth ſeems her chief aim, ſhe has Enemies at Land, her Government not compoſed for

for Foreign Conqueſts no more than the Genius of the People, and *England* has many Advantages of her both for War and Trade.

However I ſhall Remark here, that as Trade in *England* aroſe and has thriven, chiefly through the Advantages of Nature, and Genius of her People; in *Holland* it neither aroſe from the Productions of the Soyl, as in *Ægypt* and the *Baltick*; or from the peculiar Manufactures of her People, as in *France*, and ſome Towns in *Germany*; or from Accident, as in *Spain* and *Portugal*; or from meer Neceſſity, as in *Venice* and *Genoa*; or from the Amænity of her Clime, all four Elements conſpiring to thwart it; or from Situation, for when ſtanding on the ſame Platform with *Flanders*, ſhe was infinitely out-ſtript by it; but plainly from the Intereſt of Trade being interwoven with her Original Scheme of Government: And 'tis from a ſteady purſuit of that Policy ſhe has Triumphed over Nature, and Envy of Crowned Heads, and lives like a *Salamander* in the Flames of War, which conſume all beſides her. From this Example I crave leave to infer, that the *Bon-minn* of a Government is more Productive of Commerce than all Advantages of Nature.

Nevertheleſs, for Reaſons above-mentioned, *Holland* is not to be feared, in compariſon with *France*, the Scourge of this Age, which has a People Martial in their Nature, or made ſo by Diſcipline of ſome Ages, and ſtands poſſeſt of all the Arts of War, and whoſe immoderate Succeſs has juſtly alarm'd all Chriſtendom, though we might ſit unconcerned, were not her Naval Force alſo proportionably increas'd. The Crown of *France*, *Anno* 1624. was not Owner of one Ship, but hired of her own Subjects, and of *England* and *Holland* thoſe ſhe then uſed to Aſſault *Rochell*. Cardinal *Richlieu* in that Juncture came to the Management of Affairs, and

and obſerving thereon how *France* lay open to the Arms of *England*, made it his principal care to provide againſt ſuch an Inconvenience, and ſo effectually, that *Anno* 1637. *France* ſet out her firſt Line of Battle, containing above 50 Ships, and 20 Galleys, with which ſhe recovered the Iſlands of St. *Margaret* and *Honorat* near *Thoulon*, then poſſeſs'd by the *Spaniards*; and *Anno* 1642. *Richlieu* dying, left above an Hundred Ships and Galleys, with Stores ſuitable, in the Royal Arſenals: how her Fleets have been increaſed ſince, to the Terror of *Italy*, *Spain*, and all the *Mediterranean* Shores, let Hiſtories relate; I only obſerve, that *England* has been ſo far from forbidding her to build Ships of War in the Ocean (as 'tis ſaid Queen *Elizabeth* did to *Henry* the Fourth) that we have been at leaſt unconcerned Spectators, if not Contributors to it; nevertheleſs we have little felt the Effects of a ſtupid Contempt of that Formidable Growth till this War, wherein *France* has twice diſputed even Dominion of the Channel.

France was ſo unacquainted formerly with the Sea, that her Language wants a proper term for the word, *Fleet*; and it appears, that though the Native Riches and Extent of the Country might enable her Monarch to maintain a Royal Navy without the ſubſervience of an anſwerable Trade, yet that alſo was cultivated by the care of *Richlieu*; for *Rochel* and the Cautionary Towns being ſubdued *Anno* 1630. the Proteſtants were for many Years indulged Liberty: And 'twas found *France* had Materials of her own Growth for Building and Rigging Ships; from 1642, to *Anno* 1660, became a Parentheſis as to this matter, through the Confuſions of her preſent King's Minority, and a Civil War, but ſince that time Plantations have been Eſtabliſhed and Improved in the *Weſt-Indies*, an *Eaſt-India* Company formed by Royal Charter, with great Priviledges, Fiſhery encouraged, Harbours, Channels, and all Conveniences to Traffick cultivated,

tivated, Manufactures invented, and wonderfully improved, Customs on Port Trade above all Taxes avoided, Courts of Merchants for deciding all Affairs of Commerce eſtabliſh'd in moſt of her Great Cities; in fine, no Contemptible Trade has been raiſed in the *Mediterranean* from *Marſeilles*, and I queſtion if *Dunkirk* is more improved by Land in Fortifications, than by Sea in Traffick and Shipping ſince 'twas ours.

Dominion of the *Britiſh* Seas, eſpecially the Channel, is not only an undoubted Prerogative and Right of the Crown of *England*, but the brighteſt Gem in it: To the Nation 'tis a Wall of Braſs, and the greateſt Bulwark of our Religion, Laws, and Properties; without which all other Proviſions will be too ſhort to ſecure them: And ſhould *France* ever obtain it, how heavy would the Yoak of our Slavery be, or Conflict difficult to prevent it? Her Coaſt runs Parallel to ours, her Armies are above 300000 Men, her Gentry Numerous and Warlike, Pretenſions ſhe never wants to her Neighbours Poſſeſſions, nor Ambition, Reaſon of State, or Envy of our Wealth, nor Thirſt of Revenge for our Ancient Glories over them; we may confidently aver, that the Miſeries of this Iſland under the *Roman*, *Saxon*, *Dane*, and *Norman* Invaſions, and all their Ravages, Cruelties, and Impoſitions, would be far exceeded by thoſe the Tyranny of *France* would bring with it, with more danger of continuance alſo: So much is ſaid only to awaken us from that profound Security, our former Victories over her, a flouriſhing Power at Sea, Dominion of the Channel, and long Peace have nouriſh'd in us.

But to withdraw our Eyes from ſo black a Proſpect, and be ſatisfied that the Gracious God has cut out ſo much Work for *France*, there's no fear of that *Dilemma* during this War; our Wealth accumulated by long Peace,

Peace, good Condition of the Navy Royal, and mighty Stock of Shipping for Trade at beginning of the War, with a Powerful Confederacy by Land, Conjunction with *Holland* by Sea, and Renowned Vertue of our King, cannot fail (under God) to ſecure from it: But whereas Trade has extreamly ſuffered, and our Loſſes in it been ſuch, as muſt have overwhelmed any other Nation, and which, unleſs better ſecured and improved, will doubtleſs expire in few Years, our National Wealth, and Naval Power muſt find much difficnlty to ſurvive, when *Holland* increaſed in the one, and *France* in the other by our Spoils, ſhall become more Formidable to us.

Whereas Wealth is now the Meaſure of every Nation's Strength, more than the Valour of its Natives, (the latter being enſlaved, and only ſubſervient to the Goddeſs *Money*, as in the inſtance of *Switzerland*) and this War is much more deſtructive to the Wealth of *England*, than to that of any other Country concerned in it; 'tis a Conſideration, which, though it ought not to leſſen our Devotion to ſo good a Cauſe, yet ought to excite us to furniſh our ſelves with the means of purſuing and more effectually promoting it, a Supply of Souldiers being much eaſier found than Money; in like manner, whereas the Barrier of our Iſland is a Naval Force, our Loſs ſuppoſed of 2000 Ships, whereof near 1000 gained to the Enemy, the decay of our Native Timber, and inhancement in Price of Foreign, the Tranſmigration of Trafick, and a Check upon the Bravery of our Seamen, require us to retrieve all by double Diligence, ſince the ſtrong Confederacy now againſt *France* may in our particular future Exigence no Wayes be ſafely relyed on.

Upon the whole, I know nothing ſo probable to reinſtate *England* in her Treaſure exhauſted, and Naval Strength periſhing by this War, as ſome new Securities and Encouragements to Commerce; if all that has been deſired of the Government had been conſulted in its Favour, and our Loſſes came only from the unavoidable ſtroak of Heaven, or uſual Fate of Arms, it were Criminal, and highly unworthy to Complain; but that the Cruiſers and Convoys appointed by King and Parliament, have been defective in their Duty, and that Complainants have found little Regard or Redreſs from the Lords of our Admiralty, is too notorious: This is ſaid in relation only to Loſſes in the preſent War, but as to new Securities and Advantages requirable to Redeem us from the Fatal Conſequences of thoſe Loſſes, we muſt inſiſt on former and long Grievances to Trade, under which, though it has been able heretofore to ſtruggle, yet there are many Reaſons to fear it cannot poſſibly for the future; which Reaſons are taken from a change of the Balance of Trade and Naval Power in *Europe*, which this War has already, and muſt further produce.

Some Papers touching the Balance of Trade have been Printed, wherein is ſeen how all Countries employ their ſtudy to render it Advantagious, in particular, before this War 'tis plain how *France* for Twenty Years preceding had gradually beaten out our Exportations thither, and turned the Balance vaſtly to her own Advantage; ſeveral other Countries have done the like by us of late Years, in particular, touching Woollen Cloath, generally now Fabrick'd by thoſe who uſed to be furniſh'd hence; ſo as whoever will give himſelf the pains to enquire into the Acqueſts other Nations have made upon our Trade, and then add the diſmal Effects of this War, will find no ſolid Grounds to expect that *England* ſhould

ſhould recover her former Glory, Wealth, and Dominion at Sea, without ſome new Advantages to Traffick from the Government; which if it had in any proportion to what other Countries give (as already inſtanced) the God of Nature has ſo bountifully ſupplied all furtherances, we ſhould no doubt out-ſtrip our Emulous Neighbours, and perhaps out-ſhine our Ancient Glories; for to Vindicate and Entail our Dominion of the Seas, I account more deſirable, than to ſound our Trumpets again in the Gates of the *Louvre*.

If a Man went about to enumerate Immunities and Advantages *Holland* gives Trade, it would be ſaid, he had an inclination to ſuch a Government as that; wherefore I here declare once for all, I no more envy *Holland* its Government than I do *France*, and I prefer our Conſtitution before any other whatever; I know nothing wheren 'tis ſo defective as in the Argument before us, and if Navigation was more encouraged, no ways apprehend how the Royal Prerogative would be invaded by it, any more than the Priviledges of Parliament, or Liberties of the People; nor would it be expected that a Monarchy abounding in Territory, ſhould purſue the Methods of Commerce in a Common-wealth, which has nothing elſe to truſt to, any more than that a Gentleman, who may Hunt every day within his own Grounds, ſhould put himſelf behind a Counter: If any ſay, Commerce cannot be ſo conſulted in a Monarchy as a Common-wealth, I ſee no reaſon for ſuch a Concluſion from the Nrture of the thing, and am not of that mind; for though in former Ages Common-wealths have generally moſt abounded in it, that has aroſe chiefly from their Situation, want of *Terra firma*, or ſome other Accident, and does not amount to a Concluſion againſt Monarchy; for Trade was in all Ages, till within

in little more than a Hundred Years paſt, counted a contemptible thing, as it is ſtill by ſome Mighty and Famous Kingdoms, and is indeed but a Modern Syſtem of Politicks, little deſcanted on by the greateſt Writers and Profeſſors of that Science, and ſo not only out of the way of our Domeſtick Studies, but eſteemed unhappily deſcrepaut with them, though in thoſe Kingdoms wherein it has been cultivated, I do not ſee but Trade has flouriſh'd by as haſty degrees as in any Common-wealths: I confeſs, where the Monarchy is Abſolute, there can be no Security for any thing; and unleſs the Prince's Wiſdom over-rules and purſues the good of Trade, as a Maxim of State, Merchandize muſt be more obnoxious to Rapine than Inheritances of Land; but where the Will of the King is circumſcribed by Laws, there is as much Security as can be in a Common-wealth, and I can ſee no Obſtacle to the Encouragement of Trade, ſo the State conclude it her apparent Intereſt.

Under the Houſe of *Burgundy* how did Commerce flouriſh at *Antwerp* and *Bruges*, ſeveral Ages before the Rabid Fury of the Duke *D' Alva?* Never did Navigation more Improve in any Country than ours under Queen *Elizabeth*, People were ſafe in the increaſe of their Eſtates, and her Prerogative was neither Eclipſed, or her Learning tarniſh'd by it. *France* did not propound it a Care worthy of the State till about Sixty Years ago; what ſtupendious Advances has ſhe made? And but for that Check given by the miſtaken Politicks of extirpating Proteſtants, how much greater might they not have been? We might obſerve the ſame things of *Portugal*, *Florence*, *Sweden*, and others; but whereas they have been only under certain Princes, and at certain Periods, and followed by intervals of Relaxation, beſides

beſides that I ſuppoſe it no other Fate than has attended Common-wealths which have paſt their *Zenith*, and declined, I will obſerve that among the Princes of all thoſe Nations before cited, the wiſeſt and braveſt have given moſt Encouragement to Navigation and Commerce; and in the Periods they have had their higheſt Aſcendant, Navigation and Commerce have rather contributed as a Cauſe, than followed as an Effect only. From all which Inſtances I infer, there is nothing pertaining to the Eſſence of Monarchy, which contradicts the Argument pleaded for.

As to *England*, if Navigation be the Source of her Wealth, and Wall of her Defence, and after this War, will be the only means of maintaining ſuch a Fleet in readineſs, as can continue the Bleſſings of Liberty derived from our Anceſtors, and will be to us a better Security than Fortifications, Garriſons, and Armies, and will eſtabliſh on our Iſland the Glory of being the Balance of *Europe*; 'tis therefore concluded the greateſt Intereſt we have to purſue, and being no ways Injurious to Royalty, we may promiſe our ſelves from His Majeſty, who has already acquired Heroick Immortality in our Reſcue from Fatal Miſeries, whatever is needful to preſerve us from the like in futurity. And His Majeſty's Gracious Conceſſions to *Scotland*, in a late Act of Trade, are a particular Pledge to us of his Royal Favour in any ſuitable Requeſts for *England*.

As I have referred the Reader already to ſeveral Books and Papers Printed of Trade, to make ſome Computation of the Ballance of it, ſo I muſt here to inform himſelf of the particular Incumbrances on it; in general I beg leave to ſay, that ſeveral Countries in *Europe*, nay, Monarchies, give more Encouragement,

ment, and ſtudy the Advancement of it more, and if Traffick with us ſtand upon daily increaſing Diſadvantages, in Compariſon to other Nations, 'tis not like to remain long with us; whether the Alteration of the Exchange lately to moſt Foreign Parts, of near 20 *per Cent.* Prejudice to *England*, be not a ſad Symptom of her approaching *Exit*, I leave others to Judge, though if our own Naval Power and Wealth were to be continued without her, that Conſideration would have nothing of diſmal in it; 'tis plain His Moſt Excellent Majeſty ſees clearly a Neceſſity of ſome new Proviſions on this behalf, by that Gracious Propoſal of Laws for the Advancement of Trade, in his Speech to this Parliament, and for the Subject in caſes wherein the uſual Methods are not adequate to new Emergencies, there our proper Remedy muſt be ſought in Parliament.

The ſeveral diſadvantages of Trade are not hereby propoſed to be inſiſted on, our Parliament is too Numerous a Body to have Particulars Examined, Debated, and Reſolved; the generality of her Members unacquainted with Trade, the Houſes taken up with multiplicity of Buſineſs, beſides a time of War is not ſeaſonable for ſuch a Diſquiſition; howbeit ſome of her Grievances have already been touch'd, and in part relieved by Parliament, as in the Act appropriating 43 Convoys or Cruiſers for Enſurance of Traffick near our Coaſts during the War; but alas, there are moſt Conveniences in Port, and thoſe who buy Places are not over-officious to loſe their Lives; whereas the ſame under Direction of the Merchants might have ſaved probably above half our Loſſes. The Sum of what is fit to be requeſted of our Repreſentatives is, for the Conſiderations herein before mentioned, and for as much as the Ancient Boroughs of the Kingdom have deſiſted from the Original

nal Scheme of ſending Reſident Members (and no doubt in all regards, except Trade, more to the Kingdom's benefit) and it would be Interruption to other urgent Affairs in the Seſſions of Parliament to deſcend into the detail of Merchantil, *That An Act might Paſs to Conſtitute A Council of Merchants*, Sedentary at *London*, and veſted with Powers only adapted to Improvement and Security of home Manufacture and Foreign Trade for the future.

Only the allowable Paſſion of Love to his Native Soil, and no particular Loſs at Sea, or Perſonal Intereſt in Traffick (the Author no whit concerned) dictates theſe Lines, and he would rejoyce as much to ſee the End conſulted by any other means as theſe here propoſed. I find on the Reſtauration, King *Charles* promiſed to erect a like Council, from his own Obſervation of the wonderful Benefit of ſuch in Foreign Parts, and need of it for the welfare of Trade in *England*. In fine, the Committees at *Whitehall*, if compoſed of Merchants, might have produced deſired Effects: The proper work of this propoſed Council might be during War, to offer Directions to the Admiralty for Aſſignation of the Convoys (as beſt Judges of the dangers of Ships) and preſcribe time of Sailing to our moſt diſtant Voyages. In Peace, to enquire narrowly into the Balance of Trade with every Nation, to examine due making of Manufactures, to draw up Reſults and Methods for Improvement of Navigation and Commerce, and intend ſtudiouſly the welfare of them in every regard; in ſome caſes to determine of themſelves, in others to have recourſe to the Privy-Council or Admiralty, in others to digeſt Matters for Information or Sanction of Parliaments. All which may be eaſily contrived to the vaſt emolument of the Kingdom, without

interfering (I conceive) with any part of our Conſtitution.

But if any love Contention, I think whoever ſeeks an Intereſt for the People ſeparate from that of the Crown, and thoſe who deſire one in the Crown deſtructive to the People's, are equally Publick Enemies; and I wiſh there was in the Political the ſame Care, Sympathy, and Tenderneſs, as is in the Members of a Natural Body. It would be eaſie to accumulate particular Advantages from the Expedient mentioned, to the King and Parliament diſtinctly, beſides the general ones already quoted, and thoſe peculiar to Tradeſmen; but ſuppoſe the Clergy and Nobility ſhould not find herein any particular Intereſts, yet the ſame Principles of Conſcience and Honour which lead them in other things, will direct to concur to the National in this; and ſince it comprehends equal Proviſion for all Claſſes of Trade, I exhort thoſe concerned not to bury themſelves ſo much in the welfare of their particular Companies, or Perſonal Concerns, as to deſpiſe or neglect that of others and future Ages, no Man more auſpiciouſly conſulting Private Wealth by other means, than by ſerving his Generation, he may inward Peace, and future Bleſſedneſs.

Wherefore let a Bill be tendred this Parliament, with a Computation of Loſſes to the Port of *London* ſince the War, as a Foundation of praying the above ſaid Remedy, and there is reaſon to hope Succeſs, ſince 'tis no more than needs, to ſet us on ſome tolerable Level with other Nations, and perpetuate Wealth and Navigation, which are the Security of *England*, no more than right Reaſon dictates that Merchants ſhould direct in Affairs of Traffick, no more than the Nature and End of Cuſtoms warrant to expect, no more than has been granted

granted the *Scots* in their laſt Seſſion of Parliament, and His Majeſty in his late Gracious Speech to ours, invites to ſue for; and God forbid our chief Intereſt for preſerving this Kingdom, ſhould through our own default be loſt under the beſt King it has had ſome Hundred Years; for however invaluable Bleſſings otherwiſe we enjoy under this Government, they are all lodged in the Veſſel of the Common-wealth, and muſt Shipwrack with it.

F I N I S.

Some Books lately Printed.

AN Eſſay on the State of *England*, in Relation to its Trade, its Poor, and its Taxes, for carrying on the War againſt *France*. By *John Cary*, Merchant in *Briſtol*.

A Letter from an *Engliſh* Merchant at *Amſterdam*, to his Friend at *London*, concerning the Trade and Coin of *England*.

Sir *Thomas Row*'s Speech at the Council-Table, about the Alteration of the Coin, in *July* 1640. With ſome Obſervations thereon.

Some Thoughts concerning the better Security of our Trade and Navigation, and carrying on the War againſt *France* more Effectually: Humbly offered to Conſideration.

Some Remarks on a Report containing an Eſſay for the Amendment of the Silver Coins. By Mr. *William Lownds*.

A New Diſcourſe of Trade, wherein is recommended ſeveral Weighty Points relating to Companies of Merchants, the Act of Navigation, Naturalization of Strangers, and our Woollen Manufactures, the Balance of Trade, and the Nature of Plantations, and their Conſequences, in Relation to the Kingdom, are ſeriouſly diſcuſſed. And ſome Propoſals for Erecting a Court of Merchants for determining Controverſies relating to Maritine Affairs, and for a Law for Transferring of Bills of Debt, are Humbly offered. The Second Edition. By Sir *Joſiah Child*.

De Jure Maritimo & Navali: Or, A Treatiſe of Affairs Maritine, and of Commerce. In Three Books. The Fourth Edition. By *Charles Molloy*.